

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 are pending in the application, with Claim 24 being the only independent claim.

Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 1-32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,989 (Yano et al.). Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,659,601 (Goto et al. '601). Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 1-40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,517,199 (Tomioka et al. '199). Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 1-37 of U.S. Patent No. 6,719,420 (Tomioka et al. '420). Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,729,718 (Goto et al. '718). Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 1-39 of U.S. Patent No. 6,821,328 (Tomioka et al. '328). Claims 23, 24, 27 and 29-32 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,746,114 (Takahashi et al. '114). Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be held in abeyance until all other rejections are overcome.

Claims 23, 24 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,527,843 to (Zaima et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as recited in independent Claim 24 is directed to an ink-jet imaged recording medium including a colored portion. The colored portion includes aggregates of fine particles, each of the fine particles having a coloring material thereon by adsorption in a monomolecular state. The recording medium is a plain paper. The coloring material is anionic or cationic, and the fine particles have a polarity opposite to that of the coloring material. The colored portion is obtained by applying an ink containing the coloring material and a liquid composition containing the fine particles to the recording medium in such a manner that the ink and the liquid composition come in contact with each other in a liquid state.

Thus, in Applicants' invention as presently claimed, the fine particles adsorbing a coloring material are obtained by applying an ink containing the coloring material and a liquid composition containing the fine particles to a recording medium in such a manner that the ink and the liquid composition come into contact with each other in a liquid state. Due to this feature, in the obtained image, the fine particles adsorbing a dye can be present in the vicinity of the surface of the recording medium. Applicants submit that the cited art does not teach or suggest at least this feature.

Zaima et al. is directed to fine colored particles including a dye and a metal oxide and discloses fine particles on which a dye is adsorbed. In contrast to the presently claimed invention, however, the fine particles of Zaima et al. are present in the ink before being applied to a recording medium. Applicants submit that the fine particles of Zaima et

al. will penetrate deeply into the recording medium and the obtained image cannot exhibit the excellent coloring properties of the present invention. This is suggested from the description in Zaima et al. that the thickness of printed letters using the ink of Zaima et al. was comparable to that of the original ink for the printer (see, col. 12, lines 9-11 and col. 13, lines 15-16).

Accordingly, Zaima et al. is not read to teach or suggest that a colored portion of an ink-jet imaged recording medium is obtained by applying an ink containing a coloring material and a liquid composition containing fine particles to the recording medium in such a manner that the ink and the liquid composition come in contact with each other in a liquid state. Therefore, Applicants submit that Zaima et al. fails to teach or suggest important features of Applicants' presently claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under § 103 is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 24. Dependent Claims 23, 27 and 29-32 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 24. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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